announced scheme for 100% NRI investment in high priority industries, seven cases involving an investment of Rs. 290 lakhs approximately have been approved by RBI. Besides, approvals have been given by Special Approvals Committee (NRI) of Ministry of Industry involving an amount of Rs. 478 lakhs in its meeting held in February, 1992.

The Government have also received substantial amounts in following two new schemes announced by it as given below:

(i)	India Development Bonds	US$ 1292.00 million approx. £ Stg.180 million approx.
(ii)	Foreign Exchange (Immunities) Remittances Scheme Both the schemes closed on 31.1.92.	Rs. 2137.13 crores.

Supply of Newspaper and Magazines to Government Officials and Ministers

2992. SHRI MOHINDER SINGH LATHER: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Goverment officers of the rank of Deputy Secretaries and above and Ministers of all categories are provided newspapers and magazines at Government expense;

(b) if so, what is the amount of expenditure incurred by Government every year on this account;

(c) what are the reasons for which such facility is given;

(d) whether Government propose to stop this practice; and

(e) if so, what are the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI SHANTARAM POTDUKHE): (a) to (e) As per provisions contained in the Delegation of Financial Power Rules, Ministries/Departments of the Government of India have full powers to purchase official as well as non-official publications including books, newspapers, maps, magazines and other periodicals according to their individual requirements. They are also competent to decide the levels upto which such books, newspapers, magazines etc. shall be made available. The object behind making available such newspapers, books etc., is to keep Ministers/officers etc., abreast with national and international developments on broad sepectrum of issues including those pertaining to fiscal, economic, political, social cultural, health and other matters and also developmental activities in various areas of administration so as to help them to discharge their functions efficiently and effectively. The expenditure figures are maintained by the concerned Ministries/ Departments and are not required to be maintained centrally.

Callous Attitude of LIC Towards Claimants

2993. SHRI MENTAY PADMANABHAM: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to a newsitem appearing in the Times of India, Business Section of the 7th February, 1992 Captioned "Time to discipline Callous LIC";

(b) if so, what is Government's reaction to the callous attitude of LIC towards claimants;

(c) what is the number of claims which were rejected by LIC in 1990-91;

(d) what are the safeguards available to the public against the bureaucracy in LIC; and

(e) whether Government will involve consumer groups as a restraining force in LICs dealings with the public?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI DALBIR SINGH): (a) and (b) Yer Sir. It is not correct to say that Life Insurance Corporation of India is callous towards the claimants as alleged in the news item. On the other hand, LIC has set up Claims Review Committees both at Central and Zonal levels to review the repudiated claims on representation. After such a review, ex-gratia payments can also be mde by the LIC in individual cases based on merits.

(c) to (e) During the year 1990-91, out of about 1,88,130 claims only 1,504 claims were rejected which constitutes only about 0.8%. Even in such cases where claims have been repudiated